

Message Text

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72

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEA-10 CCO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00

EB-11 H-03 INR-10 IO-15 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 NSCE-00

SPC-03 OC-06 PRS-01 RSC-01 SS-15 USIE-00 USSS-00

SY-10 FAA-00 DRC-01 /120 W
----- 080896

R 112355Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8419

UNCLAS MEXICO 7715

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS/ETRN/MX

SUBJ: FRUSTRATED HIJACKING OF MEXICANA 727

1. MEXICAN NATIONAL IN MID-20'S NAMED ROBERTO GARCIA PEREZ TOUCHED OFF MAJOR SCARE AT MEXICO CITY AIRPORT LATE AFTERNOON OCTOBER 10 WHEN HE ATTEMPTED, UNSUCCESSFULLY, TO HIJACK MEXICANA FLIGHT 706, A BOEING 727 THAT HAD COMPLETED BOARDING AND WAS ABOUT TO TAKE OFF FOR MONTERREY.

2. ACCORDING TO PRESS ACCOUNTS, GARCIA GRABBED .45-CALIBER PISTOL FROM MEMBER OF CEREMONIAL MILITARY DETACHMENT INSIDE AIR TERMINAL, GAINED ACCESS TO APRON THROUGH BROKEN WINDOW, AND BOARDED 727 JUST BEFORE STEPS WERE REMOVED. HE THEN HELD 68 PASSENGERS AND FOUR STEWARDESSES HOSTAGE FOR BETTER PART OF AN HOUR, DEMANDING TO BE FLOWN TO VARIOUS DESTINATIONS IN NORTHERN MEXICO OR, ON ONE OCCASION, TO CHINA. HE WAS FINALLY OVER-POWERED BY SECURITY AGENT WHO HAD BOARDED PLANE IN DISGUISE OF CREW MEMBER; THIS WAS AFTER AN ARMED CUSTOMS INSPECTOR AMONG PASSENGERS HAD FIRED THREE SHOTS AT GARCIA AND GARCIA HAD FIRED FIVE SHOTS IN RETURN. REMARKABLY, NO ONE ON BOARD WAS WOUNDED IN EXCHANGE OF FIRE. GARCIA NOW IN CUSTODY OF ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE.

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3. GARCIA IS NATIVE OF MONTERREY AND REPORTEDLY HOLDS DIPLOMA IN MECHANICAL ENGINEERING AND HAS BEEN TEACHING AT A "PREPARATORIA." ONE RATHER LURID NEWSPAPER ACCOUNT ADDS THAT HE IS MARIJUANA ADDICT AND BECAME EXPOSED TO EXTREMIST AND "EXOTIC" IDEAS AT HIS PREPARATORIA, IDENTIFIED AS A "COMMUNIST REDOUBT." HOWEVER, THERE IS NO RPT NO CONFIRMATION THAT GARCIA IS LINKED WITH ANY DISSIDENT GROUP, AND OTHER PRESS ACCOUNTS, AS WELL AS STATEMENTS BY AIRPLANE PASSENGERS, SUGGEST THAT HE IS A MENTAL CASE.

4. ON SAME DAY MEXICO ALSO EXPERIENCED DOUBLE KIDNAPPING IN GUADALAJARA (MEXICO 7679) AND MURDER OF LOCAL NEWSPAPER EDITOR (ALSO 'EXCELSIOR' STRINGER) IN TAPACHULA, CHIAPAS. CLIMATE OF VIOLENCE OF RECENT WEEKS THUS CONTINUES.
MCBRIDE

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